

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 AID-05 IGA-01 IO-10 /092 W

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R 311051Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8826

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSMACT

UNCLAS BANGKOK 15699

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MMOL, TH, LA, VS, PFOR

SUBJ: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND LAO
MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN THAILAND

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: A. BANGKOK 15368 B. BANGKOK 15527 (NOTAL)

THE FOLLOWING ARE USIS UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATIONS OF EXCERPTS FROM
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAMAN ADIREKSAN'S NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON 31 JULY 1975:

BEGIN EXCERPTS

REPORTER: RADIO HANOI YESTERDAY REQUESTED US TO CHECK WHETHER
SOUTH VIETNAMESE PLANES BROUGHT HERE ARE MISSING, AND FOR US TO
RETURN ALL PLANES THAT ARE HERE. HAVE YOU HEARD OF THAT BROAD-
CAST?

PRAMAN: NO. THERE IS NO LONGER ANY PROBLEM OVER THOSE PLANES.
WE MADE A STATEMENT FROM THE START.

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REPORTER: WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

PRAMAN: WE SAID FROM THE VERY START THAT WE ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY AT ALL, SUCH AS TO WHOM THE PLANES REALLY BELONG, OR IN WHAT AIRFIELD THEY ARE.

REPORTER: DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY ARE STILL LEFT IN THAILAND?

PRAMAN: I CAN'T REMEMBER THE EXACT FIGURES.

REPORTER: WILL OUR GOVERNMENT CONSIDER RETURNING THEM?

PRAMAN: NO. PROOF MUST BE PROVIDED REGARDING OWNERSHIP OF PLANES. ANYBODY WITH PROOF THAT HE IS THE OWNER CAN TAKE THE PLANE OR PLANES AWAY. WE ARE ONLY LOOKING AFTER AND SAFEGUARDING THEM.

REPORTER: HOW MANY SOUTH PNAONAMESE SHIPS ARE THERE IN THAILAND?

PRAMAN: I CAN'T REMEMBER WHETHER THERE ARE ANY OR NOT. I DON'T KNOW.

REPORTER: IT SAYS THERE ARE 39 SHIPS HERE.

PRAMAN: OH HO* WHAT KIND OF SHIPS?

REPORTER: CAN IT BE DETERMINED DEFINITELY NOW TO WHOM THOSE PLANES AND SHIPS BELONG?

PRAMAN: IT DEPENDS ON WHO COMES AND CLAIMS THEM, AND HAS PROOF SUBSTANTIATING OWNERSHIP.

REPORTER: WHAT ABOUT LAO PLANES WHICH ARE PARKED AT UDORN AIRFIELD? YOU DENIED THAT THERE ARE ANY LAO PLANES IN THAILAND, BUT NEWSPAPERS HAVE TAKEN PICTURES OF THEM AND THOSE PICTURES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED.

PRAMAN: I DON'T KNOW WHEN THOSE PICTURES WERE TAKEN.

REPORTER: THE PICTURES WERE TAKEN BY "PRACHATHIPATAI" NEWSPAPER.

PRAMAN: I HAVE SEEN THE PICTURES IN ONLY ONE NEWSPAPER. I AM UNCLASSIFIED

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STILL INVESTIGATING THE MATTER. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING YET SO I CAN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.

REPORTER: THE NEWS REPORT STATED THAT PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE TO SPRAY THEM AND CHANGE THEIR COLOR.

PRAMAN: WHY DON'T YOU PUBLISH AND WRITE UP REPORTS THAT ARE BENEFICIAL FOR THAILAND*

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